

# 2012 Clean Water Indiana Grant



LEAD DISTRICT: NEWTON  
 COLLABORATING DISTRICTS: JASPER, BENTON, WHITE,  
 PULASKI, STARKE, LAKE, PORTER  
 TARGET WATERSHEDS: IROQUOIS AND KANKAKEE  
 PROJECT NAME: IMPROVING AND PROTECTING WATER  
 QUALITY  
 PROJECT DATES: 1/1/2012-12/31/2014  
 PROJECT AMOUNT: \$100,000

The Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Program was established to provide financial assistance to landowners and conservation groups. The financial assistance supports the implementation of conservation practices which will reduce nonpoint sources of water pollution through education, technical assistance, training, and cost sharing programs.

The CWI fund is administered by the Division of Soil Conservation under the direction of the State Soil Conservation Board. The (CWI) Program is responsible for providing local matching funds as well as grants for sediment and nutrient reduction projects through Indiana's Soil and Water Conservation Districts. CWI also contributes critical state matching funds for Indiana's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, an initiative which utilizes federal funds to encourage landowners to conserve environmentally sensitive land.

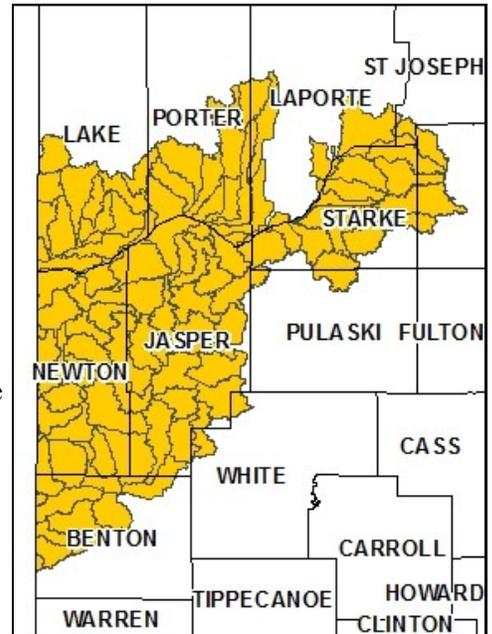
Furthermore, the (CWI) Program has supported the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative which focuses on management systems approach to crop production which results in improved soil and water quality as well as profitability on Indiana cropland.

During state fiscal year 2012, the State Soil Conservation Board awarded 21 Clean Water Indiana grants totaling \$1,078,000. Grant funds can be used for Cost Share Incentives, Technical Assistance, and Adult Education (maximum of \$1,000 per year).

## Purpose: Improve and Protect Water Quality in the Iroquois and Middle Kankakee Watersheds

Districts will create a cover crop cost share program to promote cover crop adoption in the watersheds and provide valuable research data and statistics. Each district board will be involved in selecting their county's final cost share participants. This selection will be a competitive process based on ranking according to Highly Erodible Land/manure ground, identified critical areas of the watershed, willingness to be part of a field day, and willingness to use side by side or replicated trials and/or conduct agronomic sampling (tissue, soil nitrate) on cover crop areas.

Key to the program will be the standardized and central collection of local cover crop data and follow up surveys in each cover crop year, along with technical assistance to ensure cover crop implementation is successful. Collecting this data and providing agronomic services related to cover crops will make provide feedback to farmers about the benefits of cover crops on the farm, and make available valuable data to Indiana Conservation Partnership agencies and possibly to the Risk Management Agency (RMA) for recent crop insurance issues with cover crops.



### YEAR 1 GRANT STATUS

COVER CROP COST SHARE ACRES:  
1,536

TOTAL ACRES IMPACTED:  
5,753

Cover crop acres in this watershed will support and boost the Mississippi River Basin Initiatives and Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative in the state.

